

# back to School



August 2021

Dear New Third Grader,

How are you? I hope you are enjoying your summer and are gearing up for a fantastic year in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade! Remember me from Move Up Day? I am your teacher, Mrs. McLaughlin, and I am so excited to have you in my class this year! I hope that you are as excited as I am for the school year to begin. I cannot wait to see you on **the first day of school, Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to see our classroom before the first day, feel free to stop by during the Bridge Valley **Open House on Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. in room 148.**

We are going to have plenty of time to get to know one another this year, but I thought I'd share a few things about myself with you now. This will be my twelfth year as a teacher at Bridge Valley, and my tenth (woah!) in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (I LOVE 3<sup>rd</sup> grade!). I earned my degree in Elementary Education from **Penn State University**, and probably have more school spirit than anyone you've ever met! (We Are... Penn State! 🐾) In 2017, I finished my master's degree from **Neumann University** in Social and Emotional Learning, which means I **love** bringing fun brain breaks and calming activities into our classroom. I love school SO much, that I just kept on going! After getting my master's degree, I decided to continue to go to school at **Delaware Valley University** to learn how to become a principal. Going back to school has taught me lots of new and fun things that I love sharing with my students and can't wait to share with you this year.

Something else I continue to learn more about each, and every, day is how to be a mom! Our daughter, Kaylee, just turned 2 and a half on August 9<sup>th</sup> (her birthday is February 9<sup>th</sup> if you're trying to do the math 😊)! She is such a fun, silly, and sweet little toddler and we just love watching her grow! I'm sure you will be hearing all about Kaylee and my adventures as a mom this year. In addition to our daughter Kaylee, we also have a fur-baby named Penny. She is a fun-loving cockapoo who is *finally* getting used to sharing the attention with her little sister. Kaylee and Penny are becoming

GREAT friends! We have been having lots of fun this summer visiting parks, splash pads, Sesame Place, and catching up with friends we haven't seen in a while! I can't wait to share some of my stories about Kaylee, Penny, and my summer adventures with you. I am looking forward to hearing some of the stories from your amazing summer vacation too!

Even though summer is not quite over yet, I am sure you are beginning to get yourself ready for a fun and challenging (yes! 😊) year in third grade. Central Bucks provides the supplies essential for learning, however, some students like to bring supplies to school. Suggested grade level supply lists can be found on the Bridge Valley website, and on my [teacher site](#). Please label ALL items with your name and bring them to school on the first day along with a **healthy snack each day**. Our classroom could also use a few items to keep us healthy and tidy each day. If you are willing to donate any of the following, it would be greatly appreciated: disinfecting wipes, tissues, hand sanitizer.

We are going to have a wonderful year together in third grade! We have some of the coolest science and social studies units like the solar system, motion, life cycles, geography, and economics! Get ready for some great reading adventures too! We will explore our new reading curriculum together and hear some amazing stories while doing it!! We will also become fantastic authors this year and write about stories from our own lives, give our opinions about things that are important to us, and teach others through our writing. Bring on those multiplication facts! Third grade is a big year for developing your fast facts as well. It's never too soon to start practicing!!

In addition to all the wonderful things you will learn in third grade, you can look forward to many exciting activities, creating new friendships and memories, and a fun-filled classroom. I encourage you to always try your best and to believe in yourself. Get ready for a **great** year and enjoy the rest of your summer break! I can't wait to see you soon!



Sincerely,

Mrs. McLaughlin